AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 16 and 17 as indicated below in the listing of claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (Presently amended) A closure device, comprising:

first and second interlocking fastening strips arranged to be interlocked over a predetermined longitudinal x axis between first and second ends, the fastening strips being secured together at the first and second ends, said fastening strips having a transverse y axis and a vertical z axis, said transverse y axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal x axis, said vertical z axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal x axis, said vertical z axis being perpendicular to said transverse y axis;

a slider slidably disposed on the fastening strips for movement between the first and second ends, the slider facilitating occlusion of the fastening strips when moved towards the first end, the slider including a separator for facilitating the deocclusion of the fastening strips when the slider is moved towards the second end;

the first fastening strip includes a first upper flange portion having a first length which extends upward generally along said vertical z axis and a second length which extends inward generally along said transverse y axis toward the second fastening strip, said first length of said first upper flange portion is of a constant length along the longitudinal x axis of said first fastening strip, a first altered flange portion of reduced inward extension disposed in said second length of said first upper flange portion near the first end of the first fastening strip.

2. (Previously presented) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the first fastening strip includes a first closure element, the first upper flange portion is located above the first closure element.

3. (Presently amended) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the separator engages inwardly most extending portions of the second length of the first flange portion.

4. (Presently amended) The invention as in claim 3 wherein the separator engages the inwardly most extending portions of the second length of the first flange portion to facilitate deocclusion of the fastening strips.

5. (Previously presented) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the first altered flange portion is formed by flattening the material of said second length of the first flange portion.

6. (Previously presented) The invention as in claim 5 wherein the first altered flange portion extends upward after flattening the material of said second length of the first flange portion.

7. (Previously presented) The invention as claim 1 wherein the first altered flange portion is formed by removing the material of said second length of the first flange portion.

8. (Original) The invention as in claim 2 wherein the first flange portion is formed separately from the first closure element, the first flange portion is then joined to the first closure element.

9. (Previously presented) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the second fastening strip includes a second upper flange portion having a first length which extends upward generally along said vertical z axis and a second length which extends inward generally along said transverse y axis toward the ~~second~~ first fastening strip, a second altered flange portion disposed in said second length of said second upper flange portion immediately adjacent to the first end of the fastening strips, said first and second altered flange portions prevent the separator from acting upon the respective first and second upper flange portions in a manner sufficient to separate the fastening strips.

10. (Previously presented) The invention as in claim 9 wherein the first altered flange portion is formed by flattening the material of said second length of the first upper flange portion, the second altered flange portion is formed by flattening the material of said second length of the second upper flange portion.

11. (Original) The invention as in claim 9 wherein the first fastening strip includes a first closure element, the first closure element is a U-channel closure element, the second fastening strip includes a second closure element, the second closure element is a U-channel closure element.

12. (Original) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the fastening strips are U-channel fastening strips.

13. (Original) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the fastening strips are arrowhead type fastening strips.

14. (Original) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the fastening strips are profile type fastening strips.

15. (Original) The invention as in claim 1 wherein the fastening strips are rolling action type fastening strips.

16. (Presently amended) A container comprising:

first and second sidewalls to form a compartment with an opening;

first and second interlocking fastening strips respectively connected to the first and second sidewalls at the opening, the fastening strips being arranged to be interlocked over a predetermined longitudinal x axis between the first and second ends, the fastening strips being secured together at the first and second ends, said fastening strips having a transverse y axis and a vertical z axis, said transverse y axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal x axis, said vertical z axis being perpendicular to said longitudinal x axis, said vertical z axis being perpendicular to said transverse y axis;

a slider slidably disposed on the fastening strips for movement between the first and second ends, the slider facilitating occlusion of the fastening strips when moved towards the first end, the slider including a separator for facilitating the deocclusion of the fastening strips when moved towards the second end;

the first fastening strip includes a first upper flange portion having a first length which extends upward generally along said vertical z axis and a second length which extends inward generally along said transverse y axis toward the second fastening strip, said first length of said first upper flange portion is of a constant length along the longitudinal x axis of said first fastening strip, a first altered flange portion disposed in said second length of said first upper flange portion near the first end of the first fastening strip.

17. (Presently amended) A method of manufacturing a closure device, comprising:

providing first and second interlocking fastening strips arranged to be interlocked over a predetermined X axis between first and second ends, the fastening strips being secured together at the first and second ends;

providing a slider slidably disposed on the fastening strips for movement between the first and second ends, the slider facilitating occlusion of the fastening strips when moved towards the first end, the slider including a separator for facilitating the deocclusion of the fastening strips when the slider is moved towards the second end; and

providing the first fastening strip with a first upper flange portion having a first length which extends upward generally along said vertical z axis and a second length which extends inward generally along said transverse y axis toward the second fastening strip, said first length of said first upper flange portion is of a constant length along the longitudinal x axis of said first fastening strip, a first altered

flange portion disposed in said second length of said first upper flange portion near the first end of the first fastening strip.